INSAT-1C Satellite

506. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a; whether the snag that developed in INSAT-1C have been rectified and the satellite has become fully operational, if so, since when: and

(b) what are the telecommunication facilitie- that provided to the country by INSAT-1C in addition to those already provided by INSAT-1B?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) In view of the risks involved in attempting corrective measures, it has been decided not to attempt to correct the snag at present, and operate the spacecraft with the available payload service, as it is.

Ch) TNSAT-1C will provide an additional 2000 two-way telephone circuits over and above the 4000 two-way circuits that TNSAT-1B *U* now providing. Also, additional regional TV networking is planned using INS **AT-I C.**

W.HO. Report on Leprosy patients in Tndia

507. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAN SAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 't is a fact that aceording to a WHO report Tndia tops amongst the South-East Asian countries in the number of lenrosv pat'ents;

Ch) if so. whut is the aporoximate number of leprosv cases in Tndia; and

(c) fthat steps have been taken to figh: this disease and to control blindness frorr leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ther$_e$ are about 4 million estimated leprosy cases in the country of which 3.1 million have been detected and brought on record.

(c) National Leprosy Eradication Pro gramme is implemented a-, 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Programme. Its stra tegy includes early detection of leprosy cases, their treatment with a combination of drugs, health education, correction sur gery and rehabilitation services.

Over expliotarion of ground water

508. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have consider ed ways to control over-exploitation of ground water in certain areas; and

(b) if so. what ar$_e$ the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Over exploitation of ground water is beine indirectly controlled by regulating Institutional credit according to the stage of ground water development in scheme areas which are classified as 'critical', 'semi-cfifical' or 'safe'.

A 'Model Bill' has also been circulated to the States for enactment of suitable legislation for the control and regula'ion of ground water development on scientific **lines.**